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Vaughan, his paper was summarized by Mr. John Cotton Dana.

Five-minute talks by librarians who extolled the virtues of their favorite recreation were given by: Miss Gratia A. Countryman on "Sleeping out of doors"; Miss Alta L. Stansbury, "Walking"; Charles R. Dudley, "Watching the game"; Hiller C. Wellman, "Tennis"; Miss Elfrida Everhart, "Baseball"; Henry J. Carr, "Automobiling"; Lawrence J. Burpee, "Riding a hobby"; Clement W. Andrews, "Golf"; Reuben Gold Thwaites, "Canoeing"; Purd B. Wright, "Horseback riding"; Miss Agnes Van Valkenburgh, "Bird study"; Arthur E. Bostwick, "In-door exercise." William Warner Bishop discussed the "Sabbatical year for librarians."

At the close of the Recreation symposium President Hodges assumed the chair and adjourned the meeting until the evening.

On Tuesday evening, July 5th, an illustrated lecture on Play and social welfare was given by Graham Romeyn Taylor, of Chicago, Associate editor of "The Survey."

PLAY AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Among all the movements for social advance which have come to the fore during the last two decades, none has had a more rapid and extensive development than that to provide play and recreative facilities for the children in our cities. The last four years have witnessed the most extraordinary growth of all. In 1907 there were 90 cities which maintained playgrounds for children; in 1908 the number rose to 185, and by the end of 1909 there were 336.

This recent widespread activity has been due primarily to a new appreciation of the value of play as a positive force whose benefit should be made available for all children, rather than as an ameliorative effort to make life a little more endurable and normal for the children in crowded city centers. It was, of course, natural that playgrounds should start where city conditions were seen to bear down the hardest upon child life; the

first one in this country was established in Boston a little more than 20 years ago, and the movement soon spread to New York, Chicago, and other large cities. The more extensive adoption of the playground idea, however, by communities of every sort has come in response to the recognition of the new idea that wholesome play is not merely a preventive of ill health and delinquency among city children, but that it is an essential in the process by which all children grow up—a promoter of good health, good character, and the spirit of co-operation and team play which is so necessary in the civic life of to-day.

Interesting instances of the development of play facilities in small communities are to be found in Missouri and Massachusetts. In the former state, under the auspices of the State University, a "play drummer" recently visited about 30 of the smaller cities, 12 of which started playgrounds. In Massachusetts a state law has been in effect for two years, under which referendum votes are held in cities or towns of over 10,000 population on the question whether playgrounds shall be established. Such votes in over 30 cities have, with two exceptions, resulted in an overwhelming majority in favor of playgrounds. Even in rural communities the play spirit has begun to manifest itself in such occasions as "a field day and play picnic for country children," which is now held annually in Ulster county, New York, the leadership coming from a state normal school. The whole countryside, young and old, rallies for one festal day which has far-reaching influence in stimulating neighborly relations and a community spirit.

The play spirit, in the opinion of those who attended the recent Play Congress at Rochester, should extend far beyond the playground or special occasion, and should permeate our whole life. It was even proposed that we should now supplement playgrounds by making definite provision for recreation along many residential streets on which traffic is not frequent.

Play for children, in fact, is now seen to be only part of a far larger movement

to solve the problem of public recreation for all the people. Thus far, the provision of recreation has been largely left to those whose sole interest is commercial profit, and who often provide amusement of a demoralizing sort. The amazing spread of amusement parks, nickel theaters, and similar enterprises throughout the country testifies to the fact that if the community itself is blind to the recreative needs of the people, commercial exploitation certainly is not. The country, however, is rapidly coming to understand that recreation is the concern of all, and that provision for it must be adequately made by the whole community. Our playgrounds, bathing beaches, municipal gymnasias, and recreational uses of public school buildings are a recognition of this new point of view. City parks, too, are now looked upon as far more than "beauty spots," and many facilities are being introduced so that they serve more adequately the needs of the people for sport, and active rather than passive recreation.

Our juvenile court statistics show the need for a continuity of recreative facilities in which the older type of playground is only an early step. The age at which a large proportion of delinquents come into the juvenile courts is between the years of 14 and 16—the very period at which the small children's playground begins to lose its grip and its appeal. The police arrests in most large cities show that a large proportion of offenders are under the age of 25. It is evident, therefore, that our recreation policy should extend beyond the small playground. We should not leave young people in the lurch just at the most critical periods of life.

The increasing specialization and strain in industry make all the more insistent the demand of modern life for recreation. This has been most strikingly set forth by Jane Addams in her recent remarkable book on "The spirit of youth and the city streets." She points out that during the last few decades, since the introduction of the factory system, we have been "trying the experiment of getting along without recreation," at the very period of all

in the world's history when it has been most needed. In ancient Greece the theater and the stadium were established almost at the same time as the market place. The history of other countries shows the prominence which has been given to festival occasions. The village life of the Middle ages involved all sorts of folk games and dances. The pageantry and festal observances of the Church itself played no unimportant part in the recreation of the people. Yet all of this was at a time when industry held the interest of the worker in the whole process of making the finished product from the raw material. Just at the time when factory methods brought monotony into the life of the toiler, the world began to try to do without recreation.

The new conception of play and its relation to life has a most important bearing upon the industrial efficiency of the whole people. Business men find out that a Saturday afternoon at golf makes them keener and more alert in dealing with the problems of the business day. It is all the more important that the factory worker, whose day of toil is far more monotonous, should have adequate opportunity for relaxation and recreation if he is to have the "spring" and freshness and quick perception which are so important a factor in real efficiency. Just in proportion as industry makes daily life most barren, must the community provide recreation which shall restore richness and fullness to life.

The most significant advance toward meeting the recreative needs of the whole population of a city has been made by Chicago, which not only maintains playgrounds, but has established a great system of recreation centers to meet the needs of young people and adults as well. In the last six years no less than \$11,000,000 have been devoted by Chicago to this development, and 14 large recreation centers are now in operation. The funds still at disposal will establish several more. The annual maintenance is at present very nearly half a million dollars.

The total attendance at ten of these

recreation centers during one year, by people who actually used the facilities, was 5,500,000. In area these centers vary from 3 to 60 acres. The facilities in each one provide for all manner of outdoor and indoor recreation, so that a 365-day-in-the-year service is maintained. There is a generous ball field, which in winter is turned into a skating rink. An outdoor gymnasium for men and boys, and another for women and girls, are both under the care of competent instructors. A large swimming pool is provided—suits, towels, and use of dressing rooms being absolutely free. The part set aside for the play of children contains sand courts, wading pools, and various sorts of simple apparatus. Nearby are plenty of seats, so that mothers can sit comfortably in the shade and watch their children at play, busying themselves with sewing, or such other work as can be brought from the home.

A fine and spacious recreation building, with beautiful architectural features and surroundings, houses an indoor gymnasium and locker rooms, baths, a restaurant providing simple articles of food at small cost, a reading room maintained as a branch of the Public library, club rooms for the use of small groups and societies, and an assembly hall for meetings and social gatherings. The use of these rooms is entirely free, and all sorts of entertainments, as well as parties, dances, and lectures are arranged by local organizations or individuals. If the crowded back yards or alleys in the city centers are inadequate as play places for younger children, the two-and-three-room tenements with their cooking odors, washing tubs, and clutter are even more inadequate for the social gatherings of the young people. If Mary Sullivan wants to invite her friends to a birthday party, she can secure a beautiful hall at no cost provided she applies before any one else has secured its use for the evening desired. Dramatic and orchestra rehearsals, mandolin clubs, wedding receptions, and every variety of social occasion are represented in the use of these halls and club rooms.

Most important of all is efficient leader-

ship and supervision. So fundamental is this to the best success, that leaders in play and recreation work throughout the country declare that in most cases it is better not to have a playground than one without a supervisor who understands play and the various recreational activities which are best adapted to different ages and nationalities. Without such leadership, playgrounds in some cities have actually become a nuisance and even a menace to morals.

Recreation affords a most effective medium through which can be promoted those qualities of toleration and fair play which are so greatly needed in the civic and industrial life of to-day. It is one of the few planes upon which we can unite and forget the things which divide us. All true civic and social advance must rest, in the last analysis, upon acquaintance-ship, mutual understanding and faith in each other—neighbor with neighbor, and citizen with citizen. This function of recreation is finely typified in a great play festival which is annually held in Chicago. All ages from little children to adults, and all nationalities, take part in this great occasion which involves over 2,000 participants, and frequently a combined attendance of 30,000 at the morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. The ways in which the play and recreative spirit expresses itself are represented in the play of the smaller children, in the games of girlhood and boyhood and older life, in the festival customs, national dances, and folk games of all nationalities. America has been far too neglectful of the rich heritage which is brought to her shores by the immigrants from every nation. We go abroad and travel in the out-of-the-way places of every country to see the picturesque customs of the common folk, when if we but took the trouble to get acquainted with our immigrant population we should find the same quaint costumes and the same spirit in our midst. Such an occasion as this play festival, bringing together all ages and nationalities, each one contributing its best to the common store of recreation, affords a prophetic glimpse of the social spirit that will one

day permeate all the people and all classes.

FOURTH GENERAL SESSION

(Wednesday, July 6, 9:30 a. m.)

The PRESIDENT: The first business this afternoon will be the report of the Treasurer.

Mr. RODEN: Mr. President, inasmuch as the Treasurer's report has been printed, along with the other reports of the Association, and has been submitted, I beg leave to present it without comment, and move that it be referred to the Finance committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jan. 1 to June 1, 1910.

Balance, Jan. 1, 1910\$3,499.56

Receipts

Membership dues			
1909	19 at \$2.00	.....	\$38.00
	2 at \$5.00	.....	10.00
1910	1,141 at \$2.00	.....	2,282.00
	91 at \$3.00	.....	273.00
	243 at \$5.00	.....	1,215.00
	2 at \$1.00 (partial payment)	.....	2.00
	1 at \$2.50 (partial payment)	.....	2.50
	1 at \$3.00 (partial payment)	.....	3.00
Life	3 at \$25.00	.....	75.00
Life Interest on bank balance (Jan. 1 to May 31)			3,900.50
Publishing Board, Proportion of expenses at headquarters			18.15
Sale of Bulletin			625.00
Miscellaneous (Postage \$.08, Exchange \$.55)			40.55
			.63
			\$8,084.39

Payments

Bulletin			\$885.30
Committees			
Bookbinding		\$1.25	
Bookbuying		18.45	
Library administration		14.13	
Library statistics		13.50	47.33
Headquarters—Secretary's salary			833.30
Headquarters—Other salaries			750.00
Headquarters—Miscellaneous			310.57
Contingencies			149.58
Travel			119.88
Trustees endowment fund			*\$3,095.96
Balance, June 1, 1910			75.00
Deposit, Union Trust Co., Chicago		\$4,663.43	
Deposit, National Bank of the Republic		250.00	4,913.43
			\$8,084.39

BUDGET 1910

	Appropriations	Balance on hand	
Bulletin	\$2,180.00	\$1,294.70	
Conference	400.00	400.00	
Committees	400.00	352.67	
Headquarters—Secretary's salary	2,000.00	1,166.70	
Headquarters—Other salaries	1,800.00	1,050.00	
Headquarters—Miscellaneous	440.00	129.43	
Treasurer—Expense	35.00	35.00	
Contingencies	265.00	115.42	*3,095.96
Travel	300.00	180.12	4,724.04
	\$7,820.00	\$4,724.04	\$7,820.00

CARL B. RODEN,
Treasurer.